

Serial No. 10/730,537
Examiner: Jesse Randall Roe

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-14 are now pending in the application, Claim 2 having been canceled previously, and Claims 15-17, as well as withdrawn Claims 18-24, being canceled without prejudice herein. Claims 1 and 3-14 have been found allowable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Ue et al. (US 5,733,661 "Ue"). This rejection is made moot by the cancellation of Claims 15-16 herein.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ue as applied to Claim 15, and further in view of Yahalom (US 5,382,347 "Yahalom"). This rejection is made moot by the cancellation of Claim 17 herein.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submits that pending claims 1 and 3-14 remain in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order to resolve any outstanding issues.

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FEES

The Office is authorized to charge any fees required, to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,



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